



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Board of Supervisors Authorizes Proposal For Two-Year Pilot Program at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center**

The Board of Supervisors authorized a pilot proposal for a two year program today to educate new parents about the importance of adopting safe sleeping practices for infants.

In approving a motion jointly introduced by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Don Knabe, the Board directed Chief Executive Officer Bill T. Fujioka and Director of the Department of Health Services, Dr. Mitchell Katz, to develop a two-year pilot program at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center that educates parents on the consequences of shaking infants and offers parents proper infant sleeping techniques.

The written report, which is to be submitted, to the Board three months from today, will include a proposed budget, potential funding sources, implementation plan, and timeline for the pilot program.

As part of the motion, the pilot program proposal will educate Harbor-UCLA nursing and social work personnel in the newborn nursery, neonatal intensive care unit, and pediatric services about safe sleeping practices. In addition the pilot proposal will include working with the Coroner's Office to collect data on the number of infant deaths for infants born at the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center that may have died as a result of unsafe sleeping or shaking.

“This Harbor-UCLA pilot program will empower new parents, hospital staff and caregivers and saves lives one baby at a time,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. “It is my hope that the information presented in this pilot program ultimately extends beyond the Harbor-UCLA Hospital walls and into facilities throughout Los Angeles County.”

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